

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /106 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9616

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, FI

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS RE OECD HLGC AND OECD TRADE COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS

REF: (A) STATE 21620, (B) STATE 13335

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT US PROPOSAL FOR MEETING  
OF OECD HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES (HLGC) FEBRUARY 9-  
10, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO CIEC'S COMMISSION ON RAW MATERIALS  
(CORM) MEETING WERE MADE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JANUARY 22.  
REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE US PLAN TO SEEK AT OECD TRADE  
COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 3-4 ENDORSEMENT BY THE PREFERENCE-  
GIVING MEMBERS OF A STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF UNCTAD GROUP B  
STATEMENT WERE MADE ON JANUARY 30. FINNISH POSITION WAS  
GENERALLY FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DISCUSSION BY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR OF  
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US PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY 9-10 MEETING OF OECD HLGC (REF B),

MUELLER AND KAUPPI OF FOREIGN MINISTRY INDICATED THAT FINLAND IS VERY INTERESTED IN THESE MATTERS RELATED TO CIEC AND WOULD PROBABLY BE SENDING A DELEGATE FROM FINLAND TO ATTEND MEETING IF IT IS SCHEDULED. MUELLER SAID THAT BECAUSE OF LACK OF BACKUP IN HELSINKI, FINLAND WOULD PROBABLY NOT TAKE VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING. COPY OF GROUP B PAPER WAS LEFT WITH MUELLER. IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4, MUELLER SAID THAT FIVE COMMITTEES COMPRISED OF OFFICIALS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES AND OUTSIDE MEMBERS FROM INDUSTRY, ASSOCIATIONS, ETC, ARE NOW BEING SET UP. FOUR WILL PROVIDE POLICY GUIDANCE IN THE CIEC COMMISSION AREAS OF ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS, DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED FINANCIAL AREAS. THE FIFTH COMMITTEE WILL OVERSEE AND COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE OTHER FOUR. THIS ORGANIZATION SHOULD ENABLE FINLAND TO REACT MORE QUICKLY AND SPECIFICALLY TO CIEC RELATED PROBLMS.

3. MUELLER POINTED TO THIS BACKUP STRUCTURE AS EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE FINLAND ATTACHES TO THE WORK OF THE CIEC, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DISAPPOINTED IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO WIN A SEAT (OR PART OF ONE) ON THE 27-NATION BODY. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION HE SAID THAT SWEDEN, HE THOUGHT, HAD KEPT FINLAND WELL-INFORMED ABOUT THE DECEMBER 16-18 CIEC MEETING.

4. REPRESENTATIONS REQUESTED IN REF A WERE MADE ON JANUARY 30 AND A COPY OF THE UNCTAD GROUP B STATEMENT OF AGREED-ON POSITION WITH REGARD TO GSP AND EROSION OF PREFERENCE MARGINS IN THE MTN'S WAS LEFT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. MUELLER AGREED THAT STATEMENT MIGHT PROVIDE USEFUL BASIS FOR FORMULATION OF POSITIONS BY PREFERENCE-GIVING OECD MEMBERS FOR CIEC COMMISSION AND UNCTAD IV DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT FINLAND STILL BELIEVES THAT EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A GANGING-UP BY PREFERENCE-GIVING COUNTRIES ON LDC'S.

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